

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 04600 01 OF 02 060012Z

64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 SCCT-02 NIC-01 EB-11 DRC-01 EUR-25

IO-14 SCI-06 VO-03 SCA-01 /179 W

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R 052231Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1949

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ UNN

AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA UNN

AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO UNN

AMCONSUL MATAMOROS UNN

AMCONSUL MAZATLAN UNN

AMCONSUL MERIDA UNN

AMCONSUL MONTERREY UNN

AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO UNN

AMCONSUL TIJUANA UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 4600

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS PFOR MX

SUBJECT: MONTHLY POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS

1. THIS TELEGRAM, EXPERIMENTAL IN NATURE, SUMMARIZES VARIOUS POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN MEXICO DURING THE MONTH OF MAY. SOME OF THE DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED HEREIN EITHER HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE TREATED AT GREATER LENGTH IN INDIVIDUAL TELEGRAMS AND AIRGRAMS.

INTERNAL

2. GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATIONS: THE PRI SWORE IN ITS CANDIDATE FOR VERACRUZ, RAFAEL HERNANDEZ OCHOA, ON MAY 4 -- THE FINAL CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 04600 01 OF 02 060012Z

ACT IN A LONG DRAMA SURROUNDING THIS NOMINATION (SEE A-267).

THE PARTY THEN WENT ON TO NOMINATE THREE MORE CANDIDATES: SENATOR-ON-LEAVE AND FINANCE SUBSECRETARY ENRIQUE CARDENAS GONZALEZ IN TAMAULIPAS; FORMER FEDERAL DEPUTY EMILIO SANCHEZ PIEDRAS IN TLAXCALA; AND SENATOR RUBEN FIGUEROA Y FIGUEROA IN GUERRERO. THIS LEFT THE PARTY WITH ONLY THE CONTENTIOUS STATE OF PUEBLA TO DECIDE, AMONG THE 12 STATES ELECTING GOVERNORS THIS YEAR; THE NOMINEE THERE SHOULD BE REVEALED EARLY IN JUNE. THE GUERRERO SITUATION WAS COMPLICATED AT MONTH'S END, HOWEVER, WHEN SEN. FIGUEROA WENT OFF FOR A MEETING HE HAD PROPOSED WITH GUERRERO GUERRILLA LEADER LUCIO CABANAS AND WOUND UP AS CABANAS'S PRISONER (SEE MEXICO 4508 AND 4572).

3. INTERNAL SECURITY: THE MONTH BEGAN WITH MINOR TO MODERATE LABOR VIOLENCE IN SEVERAL STATE CAPITALS ON MAY DAY. AS REPORTED IN OTHER CHANNELS, THE GOM CONTINUED TO ROLL UP MORE OF ITS ARMED OPPONENTS, PARTICULARLY MEMBERS OF THE 23 SEPTEMBER COMMUNIST LEAGUE; SEVEN LEAGUE MEMBERS WERE ARRESTED IN BAJA CALIFORNIA IN THE FIRST REPORTED INDICATION OF LEAGUE PRESENCE IN THAT STATE. AN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT IN THE STILL-UNRESOLVED ABDUCTION OF U.S. VICE CONSUL JOHN PATTERSON (HERMOSILLO) WAS THE ARREST IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OF AMCIT BOBBY JOE KEESEE. AT THE SAME TIME, POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CRIME CONTINUED. THE CABANAS GUERRILLA GROUP ON GUERRERO KIDNAPPED THE SON OF THE STATE LEADER OF THE CTM, HELD HIM FOR TWO WEEKS, AND RELEASED HIM ON JUNE 1 ONLY AFTER HIS FAMILY HAD PAID A RANSOM REPORTED TO TOTAL ALMOST TWO MILLION PESOS (SOME OF IT REPORTEDLY RAISED BY "VOLUNTARY" CONTRIBUTIONS OF ONE DAY'S WAGES BY STATE CTM MEMBERS). BY THE TIME THE YOUTH WAS RELEASED, CABANAS ALREADY HAD SEN. FIGUEROA IN HIS HANDS (SEE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH).

4. THE PRESIDENT: ECHEVERRIA TRAVELED WIDELY DURING THE MONTH AND DEDICATED MANY PUBLIC-WORKS PROJECTS. THERE WAS A LONG EXCURSION THROUGH SEVERAL SOUTHEASTERN STATES (INTERRUPTED BY A RETURN TO MEXICO CITY FOR THE FUNERAL OF FORMER FONMIN AND UNESCO DIRECTOR-GENERAL JAIME TORRES BODET, A SUICIDE); A ONE-DAY VISIT TO SAN LUIS POTOSI; AND AT THE END OF THE MONTH, OVERLAPPING INTO JUNE, ANOTHER

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 04600 01 OF 02 060012Z

LONG TRIP TO GUADALAJARA AND VARIOUS WEST COAST PORTS. A FAITHFUL PANEGYRIST REPORTED THAT ECHEVERRIA IN HIS "190 WEEKS IN OFFICE" (WE MAKE IT 182) HAS NOW MADE MORE THAN 120 WORKING TRIPS TO THE PROVINCES, THUS SURPASSING THE COMBINED TOTAL CHALKED UP BY HIS THREE PREDECESSORS DURING THEIR COLLECTIVE 18 YEARS IN OFFICE. IN GUADALAJARA, SCENE OF MUCH POLITICAL CRIME IN RECENT MONTHS, ECHEVERRIA CALLED FOR A CIVILIZED DIALOGUE AMONG ALL MEXICANS AND CONDEMNED

"DARK FORCES THAT KILL IN ORDER TO DIVIDE" THE COUNTRY.
AS THE TWO PREVIOUS PARAGRAPHS SUGGEST, NOT EVERYONE WAS
LISTENING.

EXTERNAL

5. RABASA MISSION TO CHILE: FONSEC RABASA'S SUDDEN VISIT
TO SANTIAGO MAY 30-JUNE 2 AND DRAMATIC RETURN TO MEXICO
WITH 71 ASYLEES IS BEING PORTRAYED HERE AS A SUCCESSFUL
EFFORT TO ARREST THE DETERIORATION OF MEXICAN-CHILEAN
RELATIONS AND A TRIUMPHANT PERSONAL DISPLAY OF KISSINGER-
STYLE DIPLOMACY. THE GOC, HOWEVER, APPEARS FROM THIS
VANTAGE-POINT TO HAVE DONE RATHER WELL ITSELF: ASIDE FROM
GETTING RID OF THE LARGEST REMAINING GROUP OF ASYLEES, IT
WON MEXICAN COMMITMENT TO RESUME IMPLEMENTATION OF
COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS AND TO RESTORE AMBASSADORIAL
RELATIONS. PREDICTABLY, LOCAL LEFTIST COMMENTATORS ARE
BEGINNING TO SUGGEST THAT RABASA GAVE MORE THAN HE GOT AND
TO CRITICIZE FRIENDLY GOM DEALING WITH "THE ASSASSINS OF
ALLENDE."
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PAGE 01 MEXICO 04600 02 OF 02 060059Z

64

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R 052231Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MEXICO 4600

6. EASTERN GERMAN OFFICIAL VISITS MEXICO: DURING A VISIT TO MEXICO MAY 11 TO 15 DR. HENRICH HOMANN, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EAST GERMAN COUNCIL OF STATE, MET WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FOR GENERAL POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS. THE ONLY CONCRETE AGREEMENT NOTED IN THE PRESS REPORTS OF THESE MEETINGS WAS AN EXCHANGE OF VISITS BY PARLIAMENTARIANS.

BILATERAL

7. BORDER ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS: ON MAY 8 THE EMBASSY RECEIVED A FONSEC NOTE EXPRESSING AGREEMENT TO A CONTINUATION OF AN "INFORMATION EXCHANGE" ON BORDER ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS. EMBASSY RESPONDED BY NOTE DATED MAY 15 SETTING CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 04600 02 OF 02 060059Z

FORTH USG'S AGREEMENT TO THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS HELD AT MEXICO CITY IN DECEMBER, 1973. THIS EXCHANGE OF NOTES CLEARS THE WAY FOR FURTHER WORK ON BORDER ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS SHORT OF JOINT ACTION PROGRAMS (SEE MEXICO 3833 AND EMBASSY A-229 OF MAY 11).

8. AMENDMENT OF VISA AGREEMENT: AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS' DELAY, THE FOREIGN SECRETARIAT NOTIFIED THE EMBASSY OF GOM WILLINGNESS TO PROCEED WITH AMENDMENT TO THE BILATERAL VISA AGREEMENT TO DELETE ARTICLE 1 THEREFROM. (THIS ARTICLE PERMITS FEDERAL, STATE AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES TO CROSS THE BORDER WITH NO DOCUMENTATION OTHER THAN THEIR GOVERNMENTAL IDENTITY CARDS AND HAS LONG BEEN ABUSED BY MEXICAN NATIONALS.) THE EMBASSY THUS SENT A NOTE TO THE FOREIGN SECRETARIAT ON MAY 29 TO INITIATE THE AMENDMENT PROCESS. FONSEC RESPONSE IS EXPECTED SHORTLY, AND DELETION OF THE ARTICLE IN QUESTION WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE 30 CALENDAR DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THAT RESPONSE.

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